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**UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Appl. No. : 09/297,181 Confirmation No: 9384  
Applicant : BRACCO, *et al.*  
Filed : Apr 26, 1999  
TC/A.U. : 1636  
Examiner : Kaushal

Docket No. : ST96030-US (80375.0034)  
Customer No. : 29693


Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**Request for Extension of Time**

Applicants respectfully request a three (3) month extension of time to respond to the Office Action dated March 12, 2003, extending the period for response to September 12, 2003. A Fee Transmittal and Credit Card Form covering the extension fee are enclosed. If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the required extension fee to Deposit Account No. 50-1129. If additional fees are required to keep this case pending, or if payment cannot be made otherwise, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to take any fees necessary from Deposit Account No. 50-1129.

Respectfully submitted,  
**Wiley Rein & Fielding LLP**

Date: Sept. 12, 2003

By:   
David J. Kulik  
Reg. No. 36,576

**WILEY REIN & FIELDING LLP**  
Attn: Patent Administration  
1776 K Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20006  
Telephone: 202.719.7000  
Facsimile: 202.719.7049

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